

INTNLREL 145
Summer Session 2023
Mon/Wed 1:30-3:20
Encina West 202

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Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention

Course Description:

This seminar traces the history of genocide in the 20th and 21st centuries and the question of humanitarian intervention to stop it, a topic that has been especially controversial since the end of the Cold War. The pre-1990s discussion begins with the Armenian genocide during the First World War and includes the Holocaust and Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Coverage of genocide and humanitarian intervention since the 1990s includes the wars in Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Congo, and Sudan, the genocides against the Yazidis, the Rohingya, and the Uighurs, and the recent events in Ukraine.

Course Readings:

Samantha Power, *"A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide* (2002).

Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (1998).

For each class session, supplemental readings—mostly newspaper and magazine articles—will be distributed in class or made available online. Each of these readings offers a present-day "hook" to the historical events covered in Samantha Power's book and since its publication, from Armenia to Sudan.

Course Requirements:

The course is a colloquium, which means that **class attendance and participation** are especially important, counting for as much as 30% of the final grade. A central component of the course is a close reading and discussion of the assigned texts. There will be **two response papers (25% each)**, two to three pages long, and a **final paper (40%)**, about five pages long. The topics, format, and due dates will be announced during the first weeks of the course.

Absences: Attendance is mandatory. Absences may be excused for family emergencies or illness, with advance notice if possible. To make up an excused absence, students will submit a 3-page double-spaced reflection, responding to the readings discussed in the missed class. Unexcused absences will be counted against your final grade.

Participation: Students are expected to participate in the course by doing assigned readings in advance; by coming to class informed and ready for discussion; by showing appropriate respect to the instructor and fellow students, even in disagreement; and by demonstrating a mature engagement with the themes of the course, regardless of their prior interest. Students demonstrate participation in class by asking questions, responding to prompts by the instructor, and engaging with their classmates' ideas.

COVID-19 protocols: Face coverings are optional in classroom settings. Should the instructor or a significant number of students enrolled in the course contract COVID, we will have the option of meeting remotely.

Course Schedule & Readings

Week One

Mon: Course Introduction and Overview

Wed: Ukraine 2023/Armenia 1915

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 1-16

Articles from *The New York Times* since 2006 about Turkey, Armenia, and the question of whether the massacres of 1915 in fact constitute genocide; if so, whether the Turkish government ought to be pressured into acknowledging that fact. Ukraine items TBD.

Week Two

Mon: The Holocaust

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 17-45

Christopher Browning, "The Nazi Decision to Commit Mass Murder," *German Studies Review*, Vol. 17, no. 3 (October 1994): 473-481.

Wed: Making Genocide a Crime

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 47-85

Week Three

Mon: Genocide in Cambodia

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 86-154

Articles from *The Economist* and *The Guardian* about the ongoing war-crimes trial in Cambodia of Khmer Rouge officials, against the backdrop of a general discussion regarding the costs and benefits of such tribunals.

Wed: U.S. Ratification of the Genocide Convention; The Kurds of Iraq

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 155-169, 170-245

Week Four

Mon: Genocide in Bosnia (I)

Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 247-327

Wed: Genocide in Bosnia (II)

Power *"A Problem from Hell"*, pp. 391-441

Articles from *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian* about the 2012 prosecution of the perpetrators of the Srebrenica massacre of 1995, especially the recent arrest and ongoing trials at the Hague of former Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic.

Week Five

Mon: Rwanda (I)

Power, "*A Problem from Hell*", pp. 329-389

Wed: No class today

Week Six

Mon: Rwanda (II)

Gourevitch, *We Wish To Inform You . . .*

Wed: Kosovo

Power, "*A Problem from Hell*", 443-473

Week Seven

Mon: Punishing Genocide

Power, "*A Problem from Hell*", pp. 475-516

Articles about recent court cases involving the crime of genocide, including the trial of Slobodan Milosevic. The purpose is to bring Samantha Power's chapter about courtroom justice up to date.

Wed: Darfur

Nicholas D. Kristof, "Genocide in Slow Motion," *The New York Review of Books*, February 9, 2006; available at: www.nybooks.com/articles/18674

[other readings TBA]

Week Eight

Mon: Is "Genocide" a Good Idea? (Part I)

"The Uses and Abuses of the G-Word," *The Economist*, June 4, 2011.

Bertrand M. Patenaude, "The Genocide Trap" *Hoover Institution Weekly Essay*,
September 7, 2005. Available at: <http://www.hoover.org/news/daily-report/25852>

[other readings to be distributed]

Wed: Is "Genocide" a Good Idea? (Part II)

Readings on the genocides against the Yazidis, the Rohingya, the Uighurs, and
Ukraine TBD.